

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
11 November 2004 (11.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/097021 A1

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C12N 15/50, C12Q 1/68, A61K 39/215, A61P 11/00

(74) Agent: JEEKAI & PARTNERS; Suite 602, Jinyu Tower, A129 West Xuan Wu Men Street, Beijing 100031 (CN).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/CN2004/000434

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 30 April 2004 (30.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(30) Priority Data: 0310181.3 2 May 2003 (02.05.2003) GB

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): HONG KONG DNA CHIPS LIMITED [CN/CN]; 1/F, Cosmos Centre, 108 Soy Street, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong (CN).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): YU, Cheung, Hoi [CN/CN]; 20/F, Flat E, Tower 1, The Belcher's, 89 Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong (CN). LAU, Lok, Ting; Flat H, 38/F, Tower 1, Central Park, 18 Hoi Ting Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong (CN).

WO 2004/097021 A1

(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the detection of nucleic acids from biological or environmental samples. The technique involves the amplification of the nucleic acid of interest, after conversion to cDNA if necessary, after which the amplified nucleic acid is used as the template for further amplification by the real-time PCR (RT-PCR) technique. This combination of amplification procedures increases the sensitivity and specificity of the amplification, compared with conventional amplification techniques. The invention also relates to primers for the use in this method and a diagnostic test kit.